

Railroad Historic District Expansion Report

For the Commission For Historical and Architectural Preservation
Hearing January 8, 2002



The Current Baltimore City Railroad Historic District consists of five alley houses on the north side of Lemmon Street. The properties are located at 912 through 920 Lemmon Street. The expansion will encompass the entire 900 block of Lemmon Street by adding the following properties:

- 902 Lemmon Street (pocket park);
- 904-910 Lemmon Street (four two story plus attic rowhouses of the same design as 912-920 Lemmon Street);
- 905-915 Lemmon Street (six 19th Century rowhouses); and
- park on the at the southwest corner of S. Poppleton and Lemmon Streets.

Staff Recommendation:

By including these twelve parcels of land (ten rowhouses and two pocket parks), the 900 block of Lemmon Street acts as an ensemble of 19th Century working class housing. The ten alley houses and the two small parks in the expansion area meet the following CHAP criteria:

1. Contribute to the heritage of the community.
2. Represent one or more periods or styles of architecture, landscape architecture, building or construction which has significant character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage, or culture of the City of Baltimore.
3. Contain a sufficient number of structures or related or similar characteristics to make a recognizable entity within logical geographical boundaries, including but not limited to parks or squares.
4. provide certain historic or scenic value significant to the area.

The ten alley houses contribute to the heritage of the community by representing a period and type of residential architecture – known as Greek Revival alley housing - that illustrate the material culture of the Baltimore's railroad and railroad related workers. The ensemble of the ten alley houses and two small parks create a logical geographic boundary by incorporating both sides of the 900 block of Lemmon street, thus creating a complete 19th Century streetscape. Incorporating the two parks, which connect to the east side of the district, allows for CHAP protection and guidance in preserving the entryway into the district. Together the expanded area with the already designated area represents an historic scene important to the history of Baltimore.